

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION International Bureau



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶: H04N 7/12, 11/02, 11/04, 5/46, 7/01, 11/20, 7/10, 7/14

(11) International Publication Number:

WO 98/08340

(43) International Publication Date:

26 February 1998 (26.02.98)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US97/14867

A1

(22) International Filing Date:

22 August 1997 (22.08.97)

(30) Priority Data:

08/697,378

23 August 1996 (23.08.96)

US

(71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: GUNTRUM, Mark, F. [US/US]; 5168 Woodlawn Drive, Schenectady, NY 12303 (US).

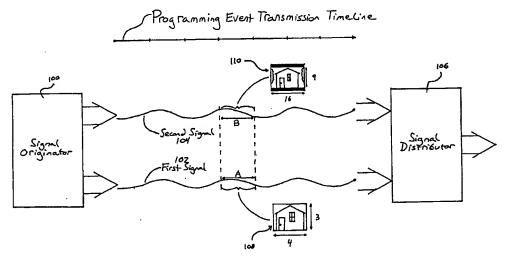
(74) Agents: REINKE, Wayne, F. et al.; Heslin & Rothenberg, P.C., 5 Columbia Circle, Albany, NY 12203-5160 (US). (81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (GH, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published

With international search report.

Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.

(54) Title: METHODS FOR DISTRIBUTION OF TELEVISION PROGRAMMING EVENTS



(57) Abstract

Certain advantageous purposes may be achieved through providing or making available for comparison multiple presentations of a single programming event which are provided in the same time slot. Known signal origination and distribution technologies are employed to facilitate comparative viewing of a programming event in alternative "presentation formats" (300 and 302). In general terms, this is achieved by providing synchronized or chronologically continuous presentations of a single programming event in alternative presentation formats (300 and 302) such that a television viewer can alternatively receive and view the programming event in each of the alternative presentation formats (300 and 302). The viewer may thus alternate his viewing to make a comparison between the alternative presentation formats (300 and 302), for example, by switching the reception of his receiver (304) between the channels on which the presentations are transmitted, or by viewing the alternative presentation formats together if two television receivers are available or if the viewer's receiver (304) has "picture-in-picture" capability.